How can my family sign up for the Guide-By-Your-Side Program?

The Guide-By-Your-Side Program is free of charge. All you need to do is:

- Tell your child's audiologist or doctor (provider) that you would like to meet with a Parent Guide.
- Sign forms that will allow your child's provider to share information with the Guide-By-Your-Side Program.
- Know that your child's provider will contact the Guide-By-Your-Side Program.
- Expect a Parent Guide to contact you shortly after.

If you have questions or concerns please call Sally-Ann at (608) 266-7032. For more information about the Guide-By-Your-Side Program visit our website:

www.wesp-dhh.wi.gov





The Wisconsin Educational Services
Program for the Deaf and Hard of
Hearing (WESPDHH) - Outreach
supports children who are deaf, hard
of hearing, and deafblind by providing
a broad array of services to families
and educational programs. Services
are provided at no cost and are based
on the needs of each individual child.



WESPDHH - Outreach is a program of the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Division for Learning Support: Equity and Advocacy.

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability.

A free program for families



with young children who are deaf or hard of hearing

Supported by: WESP-DHH Outreach Sally-Ann Anderson, Birth-6 Program Coordinator 608-266-7032 v/tty 608-267-3746 fax

What is the Guide-By-Your-Side Program?

The Guide-By-Your-Side Program is free of charge and strives to serve **every eligible** family in Wisconsin. This program can help you meet another parent who also has a deaf or hard of hearing child. This Parent Guide will be able to:

- answer questions for you
- share what it is like to parent a child who is deaf or hard of hearing
- talk about the many different ways you might communicate with your child
- connect you with other other people and resources that might be able to help you like:
 - your county Birth to 3 Program
 - local schools
 - parent groups

Who are the Parent Guides?

Parent Guides...

- have children of various ages who are deaf or hard of hearing
- have been trained to provide support and information
- will keep all information about your child and family private
- can work with you no matter where you live in Wisconsin

Parent Guides speak your language:

- English
- American Sign Language (ASL)
- Spanish / Espa**n**ol

How does the Guide-By-Your-Side Program Work?

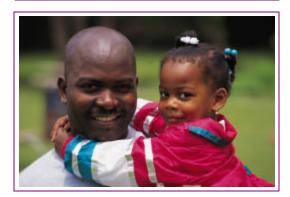
- > A local Parent Guide will call you
- ➤ Your Parent Guide will visit with your family 3 times...
 - In your home or another place of your choice
 - At a time that works for you
 - For up to 2 hours each visit

Quotes from Parents

"When I found out about my child's hearing loss there was a flood of overwhelming emotions. There was so much to feel, so much to do, I didn't know where to start. Having another parent to guide me through this transitional period would have been invaluable."

"No one understands what it is like to have a deaf child, that feeling of something lost, unless you have a deaf child yourself."

"I remember driving home from the hospital feeling lost with no idea where to turn or what to do next".



This project is funded through an IDEA discretionary grant from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.